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Docket No.: 220741US6PCT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/089,083
Applicants: Takanori NISHIMURA, et al.
Filing Date: April 10, 2002
For: METHOD OF USING SERVER, SERVER
RESERVATION CONTROL APPARATUS AND
PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM
Group Art Unit: 2151
Examiner: Daftuar, s.

SIR:

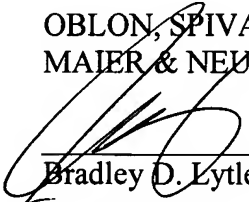
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

REPLACEMENT APPEAL BRIEF

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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DOCKET NO: 220741US6PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKANORI NISHIMURA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: DAFTUAR, S.
SERIAL NO: 10/089,083 :
FILED: APRIL 10, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2151
FOR: METHOD OF USING SERVER, :
SERVER RESERVATION CONTROL
APPARATUS AND PROGRAM STORAGE
MEDIUM

REPLACEMENT APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

This is a Replacement Appeal Brief in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated August 9, 2006 and of the Final Rejection dated January 5, 2006, which finally rejected Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-27 in the above-identified patent application.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the assignee Sony Corporation.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants' legal representative and assignee are aware of no appeals which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have any bearing on the board's decision in this appeal.



III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-27 stand finally rejected, and the rejection of Claim 1 is appealed herewith. A clean copy of pending Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-27 is attached in the claims appendix. As Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-27 will stand or fall together, and Claim 1 is discussed herein as exemplary of the deficiencies of the rejections of record.

IV. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

After the Final Office Action of January 5, 2006, no amendments were filed in the present application.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant's Claim 1 relates to a method of reserving and accessing resources in a distribution server (e.g., streaming server 102).¹ The method includes a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request information including a desired service time for distributing content (e.g., live streaming video) using said distribution server from a user terminal apparatus (e.g., user PC 106)² to a reservation control apparatus (e.g., server reservation control center 101) via a first network (e.g., Internet 103).³ The method of Claim 1 also includes a reservation accepting step of creating authentication information (e.g., reservation ID) used for an accepted reservation and sending the reservation setting information (e.g., billing information, reservation ID, etc.) including said authentication information from said reservation control apparatus to said user terminal apparatus (106) via the first network (103) when the reservation for use of said distribution server (102) during

¹ e.g., specification, pp. 4-6.

² Id., Fig. 3.

³ Id., pp. 53-60 and Figs. 12 and 21.

said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted.⁴ The method also includes a step of writing and storing said authentication information (e.g., mail address, user ID, reservation ID, etc.)⁵ included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area (e.g., RAM 121, HDD 123, etc.) of said user terminal apparatus (106).⁶ The method further includes a service requesting step of reading and sending said authentication information (e.g., mail address, user ID, reservation ID, etc.) stored in said predetermined storage (e.g., RAM 121, HDD 123, etc.) area from said user terminal apparatus (106) when said user terminal apparatus accesses and uses said distribution server based on said reservation.⁷ The method of Claim 1 further includes an authenticating step of deciding whether the use of said distribution server (102) by said user terminal apparatus (106) is accepted based on said authentication information sent from said user terminal apparatus (106).⁸ Finally, content is transmitted from the user terminal apparatus (106) to the distribution server (102) via a second network (e.g., dedicated server connection network 108), and broadcasted by the content distribution server (106) over said first network (103).⁹

Independent Claim 10 recites identical reservation requesting, storing, transmitting and broadcasting steps, as described above with respect to independent Claim 1, but recites slightly different reservation accepting and communication establishing steps, as discussed below.

The reservation accepting step of independent Claim 10 recites sending reservation setting information including communication/connection information (e.g., connection telephone information in reservation setting information) necessary for said user terminal

⁴ Id., pp. 62, and Fig. 21.

⁵ Id., p. 62.

⁶ Id., Fig. 2 and p. 71-73.

⁷ Id., pp. 86-88.

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id., pp. 86-89 and Figs. 1 and 37.

apparatus (106) to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server (102) from said reservation control apparatus (101) to said user terminal apparatus (106) via the first network (103) when the reservation for the use of said distribution server (102) during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted.¹⁰ The communication establishing step of Claim 10 recites reading said communication/connection information (e.g., connection telephone information in reservation setting information) stored in said predetermined storage area (e.g., RAM 121, HDD 123, etc.) and establishing a communication/connection with said distribution server (102) based on the read communication/connection information when said user terminal apparatus (106) accesses and uses said distribution server based on said reservation.¹¹

Independent Claim 18 is directed to a server reservation control apparatus (101) including receiving means (e.g., network I/F 154) for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use a distribution server (102) provided from a user terminal apparatus (106) via a first network (103). The server reservation control apparatus (101) also includes a reservation setting information generating means (live vesting server 150, reservation DB 151, user DB 152, NTP server 153, DB server 155) for generating reservation setting information (see above) including authentication information used only for an accepted reservation when a reservation for the use of said distribution server (102) in said desired service time contained in said reservation request information is accepted.¹² The server reservation control apparatus (101) of Claim 18 also includes a transmitting means (e.g., network I/F 154) for transmitting the reservation setting information including the authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus (106) via the first network (103). The reservation

¹⁰ Id., pp. 71-21 and 86.

¹¹ Id., pp. 86-88.

¹² Id., pp. 68-72.

information includes information used by said user terminal apparatus to transmit content from said user terminal apparatus to said distribution server which transmits said content over a second network (see above).

Independent Claim 22 recites substantially similar features as independent Claim 18, directed to a server reservation control apparatus (101). However, similar to Claim 10, Claim 22 recites that the reservation setting information includes communication/connection information necessary for the user terminal to establish communications with the distribution server. As noted above, pp. 68-72 describe various examples of communication/connection information included in the reservation setting information sent from the reservation control apparatus (101) to access the distribution server (102), as recited in independent Claim 22.

Independent Claims 26 and 27 recite a program storage medium (e.g., memory in server reservation control center 101) storing a program to be executed by a server reservation control apparatus (101) that controls reservations for the use of a distribution server (102). Claims 26 and 27 recite that the program within the reservation control apparatus (101) performs the same functions as the “means for” elements noted above with respect to independent Claims 18 and 22, respectively. Accordingly, the portions of the specification cited with respect to independent Claims 18 and 22, also apply to independent Claims 26 and 27, respectively.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The ground of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is whether independent Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27, and dependent Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19-21 and 23-25 are rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,039, hereinafter “Nakamura”), and further in view of Wiser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,868,403, hereinafter “Wiser”).

VII. ARGUMENT

1. Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27 are patentable over Nakamura and/or Wiser.
 - A. The differences between the subject matter of Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27 and fair suggestions of the applied references have not been correctly ascertained.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue must be correctly ascertained. See Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 17 (1966). This well established rule, notwithstanding the final rejection of January 5, 2006, fails to reasonably interpret the language of the claims and the teachings and fair suggestions of the applied references, and, accordingly, fails to correctly ascertain the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.

- B. Nakamura - distribution of content data received from client

Claim 1, recites, *inter alia* a method of reserving an access and resource in a distribution server, comprising:

...transmitting content *from the user terminal apparatus to a distribution server via a second network*;
broadcasting by the content distribution server, *said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network*.

Nakamura describes an on-demand cable system including a multimedia server connected to a plurality of clients via a network, which distributes multimedia content based on a reservation received from the client devices.¹³ In Nakamura's system, a multimedia transmission request is sent from a client device (101/115) to a server device (120) via a network (130) and is stored in an input queue buffer unit (123).¹⁴ Then, a reproduction schedule table is generated, which stores scheduled transmissions of requested multimedia content to the requesting client over the network.¹⁵ Thus, Nakamura describes a content

¹³ Nakamura, Abstract.

¹⁴ Id., col. 1, lines 40-45.

¹⁵ Id., col. 1, line 53 through col. 2, line 15.

distribution system that allows a user to schedule, or request, specific content to be distributed from the server device to the client terminal at a predetermined time.

Nakamura, however, fails to teach or suggest that content is transmitted from the client (101) to the server (120) and broadcasted by the content distribution server, as recited in independent Claim 1.

In addressing these claimed features, the Final Office Action and Advisory Action of April 10, 2006 (hereinafter, the Advisory Action) cites col. 1, lines 40-65 and col. 4, line 40-col. 5, line 42 of Nakamura, and the Final Office Action states that “examiner consider data stream transmitted from server interface unit and carried out by client as transmitting content from the user terminal apparatus to the distribution server via second network”.¹⁶ Thus, since the “server interface unit” is part of the server (120) the Final Office Action asserts that, with respect to his feature, that the server (120) of Nakamura analogous to the claimed “user terminal apparatus”, and the client (101) is analogous to the claimed “distribution server”.

Such an interpretation of Nakamura is in contrast to the interpretation of this reference with regard to the “reservation requesting” and “storing” steps recited in independent Claim 1, as addressed in the Final Office Action. In addressing the step of “sending reservation request information... from a user terminal apparatus to a reservation control apparatus,” the Final Office Action cites col. 1, lines 43-45 of Nakamura, which describes that a transmission request is transmitted from a client interface unit (115) to a server interface unit (122). Thus, in this regard, the Final Office Action asserts that the client device (101) of Nakamura is analogous to the claimed “user terminal apparatus.” Similarly, in addressing the step of “storing said authentication information included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus,” the Final Office Action cites col. 1, lines 55-62 of Nakamura, which describes

¹⁶ Final Office Action, p. 3.

that the client (101) transmits a request to the server (120) and obtains information from the server (120), which is stored in the client device (101).

Thus, in addressing the “reservation requesting” and “storing” steps, the Final Official Action asserts that the claimed “user terminal apparatus” is analogous to Nakamura’s client (101), and the claimed “reservation control apparatus” is analogous to Nakamura’s server (120). However, since this interpretation fails to address the above noted “transmitting” and “broadcasting” features recited in independent Claim 1, the Final Office Action and Advisory Action then asserts that the claimed “user terminal apparatus” is analogous to Nakamura’s server (120), and the claimed “reservation control apparatus” is analogous to Nakamura’s client (101).

In light of this interpretation of Nakamura, it is clear that neither the server (120), nor the client (101), perform all the claimed steps relating to the claimed “user terminal apparatus” and “reservation control apparatus,” respectively, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Further, regardless of interpretation, neither the client (101), nor the server (120) of Nakamura address the features of transmitting content *from the user terminal apparatus to a distribution server via a second network* and broadcasting by the content distribution server, *said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network*, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Should Nakamura’s server (101) be interpreted as analogous to the claimed “user terminal apparatus,” the server (101) does not send reservation request information to a reservation control apparatus via a first network; receive and store authentication information; or transmit content to a distribution server for distribution, as recited in independent Claim 1.

However, assuming *arguendo* that a "...data stream transmitted from server interface unit and carried out by client" is in any way similar to "transmitting content from the user terminal apparatus to the distribution server via second network", Nakamura fails to teach or suggest that the data stream sent to the server (101) from the client is broadcast, whatsoever. Instead, this data is intended to be used by the server to create a scheduling table, the data received from the client is not broadcast.

In addressing the step of *broadcasting by the content distribution server, said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network*, the Advisory Action relies on col. 1, lines 15-22, col. 2, lines 16-38, and col. 20, lines 35-38 of Nakamura. The cited portion of Nakamura, simply describes that content data is requested by the client (101) and transmitted from the server (120) to the client (101) to be reproduced, but fails to teach or suggest that the content is *broadcasted by the client (101) over said first network*, as recited in independent Claim 1.

The Advisory Action further stated that "examiner respectfully reminds the applicant that Claim 1 recited (sic) 'broadcasting by content distribution server.'" However, as noted above, independent Claim 1 recites "transmitting content *from the user terminal apparatus to a distribution server via a second network*," and "broadcasting by the content distribution server, *said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network*." Thus, independent Claim 1 recites that the content distribution server broadcasts content received from the user terminal apparatus. As discussed above, Nakamura fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature.

Thus, the system described by Nakamura, regardless of interpretation, fails to teach or suggest the method recited in independent Claim 1. Specifically, Nakamura fails to teach or suggest *transmitting content from the user terminal apparatus to a distribution server via a second network*, and broadcasting by the content distribution server, *said content data*

received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Similarly to Nakamura, Wiser fails to teach or suggest the above differentiated claimed features. Thus, neither Wiser nor Nakamura neither alone or in combination teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in amended Claim 1.

As independent Claims 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27 recite substantially similar parallel subject matter as that argued above, with respect to Claim 1, Applicants submit that Nakamura fails to teach or suggest the elements of Claims 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27 for which it is asserted as a primary reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

C. There is no motivation or suggestion to combine Nakamura and Wiser relative to the rejection of Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27.

When an obviousness determination is based on multiple prior art references, there must be a showing by the patent examiner of some "teaching, suggestion, or reason" to combine the references. Gambro Lundia AB v. Baxter Healthcare Corp., 110 F.3d 1573, 1579, 42 U.S.P.Q.2d 1378, 1383 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (also noting that the "absence of such a suggestion to combine is dispositive in an obviousness determination"). Whether motivation to combine the references is shown is a question of fact. *See* In Re Dembiczak, 175 F.3d 994, 1000, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Evidence of a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine prior art references may flow, *inter alia*, from the references themselves, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or from the nature of the problem to be solved. *See* Dembiczak, 175 F.3d at 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1617. Although a reference need not expressly teach that the disclosure contained therein should be combined with another, *See* Motorola, Inc. v. Interdigital Tech. Corp., 121 F.3d 1461, 1472, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d 1481, 1489 (Fed. Cir. 1997), the showing of combinability, in whatever form, must nevertheless be "clear and particular." Dembiczak, 175 F.3d at 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d at

1617. "Trade-offs often concern what is feasible, not what is, on balance, desirable. Motivation to combine requires the latter." Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang, 53 U.S.P.Q.2d 1580, 1587 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Interpreting the Supreme Court's decision in Dickinson v. Zurko, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1930 (1999) regarding standard of review in patent matters, the CAFC determined that when upholding a rejection of a claimed invention in an appeal, the CAFC must find that the decision by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Board of Appeals and Interferences is supported by "substantial evidence," In Re Gartside, 53 U.S.P.Q.2d 1769 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Accordingly, for a rejection based on combination of references to be proper requires that the rejection be supported by substantial evidence that the motivation to combine references was not merely feasible, but desirable.

The Final Official Action dated June 20, 2004, states that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Nakamura with Wiser because

...it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to provides (sic) a secure online on demand distribution system that provides consumers with flexibility and ease of use in the selection, previewing, downloading, and transporting digital media over the internet, and that provides security of the media through the distribution system.¹⁷

Recently, the number of users wishing to broadcast live feeds from desktop computers, or other similar client devices, over the internet has increased dramatically. Such an increase in demand has resulted in a strain of resources at streaming servers, which are configured to relay such broadcasts over the internet to a plurality of users. Specifically, problems occur when a plurality of clients attempt to access the streaming server to broadcasts content simultaneously. In view of such limitations, the present invention provides a secure resource reservation system that allows users to reserve broadcast

¹⁷ See Final Office Action at p. 4..

bandwidth at a streaming server in advance to allow for more efficient utilization of the streaming server's resources.¹⁸

As outlined above in section (B), Nakamura describes a method by which a user is able to send a request from a client device to a server to schedule access to an on demand data stream. At no point does Nakamura discuss a system which allows users the ability to schedule resources in a streaming server to transmit data from a client device to a streaming server for broadcast. Instead, Nakamura is directed to requesting that a particular stream of data be received by the client at a predetermined time. Thus, Nakamura's client device (101) fits a role similar to the client devices (107), shown in Fig. 2 of the present specification.

Similarly, Wiser describes a computer implemented on-line music distribution system that provides for the secure delivery of audio data and related media over a network.¹⁹ The client devices in Wiser's system are similar to those in Nakamura, in that said client devices are used to download or receive data. As noted above, the present claims specifically recite that the user terminal apparatus is used to schedule resources in a streaming server and send data *to* the server to be broadcast.

Simply stated, the client devices, and general systems designs of both Nakamura and Wiser relate to downloading content at a client, and do not teach or suggest scheduling the uploading of content from a client device to a streaming sever, as claimed. Applicants' claimed invention, therefore, is not directed to providing a secure online demand distribution system, but instead relates to transmitting data from a client device to a streaming server, or, in other words, uploading content data from a client device from a streaming server, not distributing such content.

¹⁸ Specification, pp. 4-6.

¹⁹ Wiser, Abstract.

In this regard, the motivation provided by the Examiner is provide "...ease of use in the selection, previewing, downloading, and transporting digital media over the internet..." is irrelevant to Applicants' claimed invention. As noted above, the claimed invention is directed to scheduling resources in a streaming server to send, or upload, the contents data to the server. There is simply no motivation for modifying Nakamura's method of scheduling on demand content viewing service, with Wiser's music download system in the context of Applicant's claimed invention.

As the art of record is deficient in the matter described above, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Kigo be reversed.

D. For at least the reasons discussed above, dependent Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19-21 and 23-25 also patentably define over Nakamura and/or Wiser.

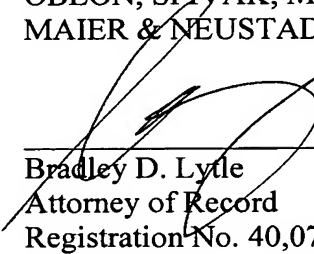
Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19-21 and 23-25, each depend from one of independent Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26 and 27, which are discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19-21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Nakamura and Wiser be reversed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed to be clear that the Final Rejection fails to properly analyze the claimed subject matter, to properly interpret the teachings and fair suggestions of the applied references, and to properly determine the differences between this claimed subject matter and the applied references. Accordingly, it is believed to be clear that there has been no establishment of a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness and that speculation and unfounded motivations have been substituted for facts absent from the record. Under these conditions, it is clear that the rejections offered by the Examiner must be reversed.

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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1: A method of reserving and accessing resources in a distribution server, comprising:

a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request information including a desired service time for distributing content using said distribution server from a user terminal apparatus to a reservation control apparatus via a first network;

a reservation accepting step of creating authentication information used for an accepted reservation and sending the reservation setting information including said authentication information from said reservation control apparatus to said user terminal apparatus via the first network when the reservation for use of said distribution server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted;

a storing step of writing and storing said authentication information included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus;

a service requesting step of reading and sending said authentication information stored in said predetermined storage area from said user terminal apparatus when said user terminal apparatus accesses and uses said distribution server based on said reservation;

an authenticating step of deciding whether the use of said distribution server by said user terminal apparatus is accepted based on said authentication information sent from said user terminal apparatus;

transmitting content from the user terminal apparatus to the distribution server via a second network;

broadcasting, by the content distribution server, said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network.

Claim 2: The method of claim 1, wherein in said storing step, said authentication information included in said reservation setting information is automatically written and stored in said predetermined storage area.

Claim 3: The method of claim 1, wherein:

in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control apparatus sends the reservation setting information including said authentication information to said user terminal apparatus and registers said authentication information in a database; and

in said authentication step, the use of said distribution server is accepted only when the authentication information registered in the database of said reservation control apparatus matches the authentication information sent from said user terminal.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5: The method of claim 1, wherein:

in said reservation accepting step, said user terminal apparatus sends reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server to said user terminal apparatus via the first network;

in said storing step, said user terminal apparatus stores said communication/connection information; and

in said service requesting step, said user terminal apparatus reads said stored communication/connection information and carries out processing to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server based on the read communication/connection information.

Claim 6: The method of claim 5, wherein when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said processing server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information contains a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server.

Claim 7: The method of claim 5, wherein said user terminal apparatus automatically starts processing to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation.

Claim 8: The method of claim 1, further comprising
a notifying step of notifying the user of said user terminal apparatus at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation that the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come.

Claim 9: The method of claim 1, wherein in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control apparatus encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

Claim 10: A method of reserving and accessing resources in a distribution server, comprising:

a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request information including a desired service time for distributing content using said distribution server from a user terminal apparatus to a reservation control apparatus via a first network;

a reservation accepting step of sending reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary for said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said processing server from said reservation control apparatus to said user terminal apparatus via the first network when the reservation for the use of said distribution server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted;

a storing step of writing and storing said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information sent from said reservation control apparatus in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus;

a communication establishing step of reading said communication/connection information stored in said predetermined storage area and establishing a communication/connection with said distribution server based on the read communication/connection information when said user terminal apparatus accesses and uses said distribution server based on said reservation;

transmitting content from the user terminal apparatus to the distribution server via a second network;

broadcasting by the content distribution server said content data received from said user terminal apparatus over said first network.

Claim 11: The method of claim 10, wherein in said storing step, said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information is automatically written and stored in said predetermined storage area.

Claim 12: The method of claim 10, wherein in said storing step, said communication/connection information included in said reservation setting information is encrypted and written.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14: The method of claim 10, wherein when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said distribution server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information includes a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server.

Claim 15: The method of claim 10, wherein
when the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come, processing for establishing a communication/connection of said user terminal apparatus with said distribution server is automatically started.

Claim 16: The method of Claim 10, further comprising
a notifying step of notifying, at the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation, the user of said user terminal apparatus that the start time of said reservation or a predetermined time before the start time of said reservation has come.

Claim 17: The method of claim 10, wherein in said reservation accepting step, said reservation control apparatus encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

Claim 18: A server reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use a distribution server provided from a user terminal apparatus via a first network;

reservation setting information generating means for generating reservation setting information including authentication information used only for an accepted reservation when a reservation for the use of said distribution server in said desired service time contained in said reservation request information is accepted; and

transmitting means for transmitting the reservation setting information including the authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the first network

wherein, said reservation information includes information used by said user terminal apparatus to transmit content from said user terminal apparatus to said distribution server which transmits said content over a second network.

Claim 19: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

said reservation setting information generating means includes a command to execute processing of automatically writing and storing said reservation setting information in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus in said reservation setting information.

Claim 20: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

an authentication information database for storing the authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means; and

authenticating means for receiving, when said user terminal apparatus sends authentication information to obtain a permission to use said distribution server based on said reservation, the authentication information sent, deciding whether the received authentication information matches the authentication information stored in said authentication information database and accepting the use of said distribution server by said user terminal apparatus only when the two authentication information pieces match.

Claim 21: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said transmitting means encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

Claim 22: A server reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use a distribution server provided from a user terminal apparatus via a first network;

reservation setting information generating means for generating reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary for said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server via the first network when a reservation for the use of said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted; and

transmitting means for transmitting the reservation setting information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the first network

wherein, said reservation information includes information used by said user terminal apparatus to transmit content from said user terminal apparatus to said distribution server which transmits said content over a second network.

Claim 23: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said reservation setting information generating means includes a command to execute processing of automatically writing and storing said reservation setting information in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus in said reservation setting information.

Claim 24: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 22, wherein when said user terminal apparatus carries out a communication/connection with said distribution server via a telephone network, said communication/connection information includes a telephone number to be called by said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server.

Claim 25: The server reservation control apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said transmitting means encrypts and sends said reservation setting information.

Claim 26: A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a distribution server comprising:

reception processing that receives reservation request information including a desired service time to use said distribution server provided from a user terminal apparatus via a first network;

reservation setting information generation processing that generates reservation setting information including authenticated information used only for an accepted reservation

when a reservation for the use of said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, and

transmission processing that transmits the reservation setting information including authentication information generated by said reservation setting information generating means to said user terminal apparatus via the first network

wherein, said reservation information includes information used by said user terminal apparatus to transmit content from said user terminal apparatus to said distribution server which transmits said content over a second network.

Claim 27: A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a server reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a distribution server comprising:

reception processing that receives reservation request information including a desired service time to use said distribution server provided from a user terminal apparatus via a first network;

reservation setting information generation processing that generates reservation setting information including communication/connection information necessary for said user terminal apparatus to establish a communication/connection with said distribution server via the network when a reservation for the use of said distribution server in said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted; and

transmission processing that transmits said reservation setting information to said user terminal apparatus via the first network

wherein, said reservation information includes information used by said user terminal apparatus to transmit content from said user terminal apparatus to said distribution server which transmits said content over a second network.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE